October, 1990, The candidates found qualified in the preliminary tests would be screened by Selection committee consisting the Director, Sr. News Editor of the Kendra and three outside Members. The selection is made on the basis of presentable personality on TV screen, good voice correct pronounciation, diction and news background if the candidate.

Production of indigenous engine for light Combat Aircraft

1583. KUMARI SAYEEDA KHATUN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have taken the final decision to produce Light Combat *Aircraft;*

(b) what progress has been made in making an indigenous engine for the L.C.A. and other important parts of the project;

(c) when the project is likely to be completed and what would be the final investment on the project; and

(d) whether an advanced foreign jet fighter will be acquired pending production of L.C.A. if so, what are the plans in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI LALIT VIJAY SINGH): (a) The Project Definition Phase or the LCA has been completed. The next phase viz. the Full Scale Engineering Development (FSED), as part of the Post-Project Definition Phase, is being taken up in phases Government sanction is being sought for Phase I activities in which critical technologies are planned to be demonstrated. Phase II of FSED is envisaged for integration of various technologies to be demonstrated in parallel to Phase I. Due to the phased nature of FSED, the production phase to follow is expected to be determined during the progress of FSED.

(b) The detailed design of components is in progress. The material specifications for different components have been drawn up. Forging drawing for components have been completed. Test plans for components and the engine have been finalised.

(c) The roll-out of the first LCA core technology demonstrator platform under Phase I is expected in 1995. As per current estimates the manufacture of LCA is likely to start in the early years of the decade starting 2000 The likely investment for Phase I of FSED would be of the order of Rs. 1670 crores.

(d) It will not be in the national interest to disclose Government plans in this regard.

National Security Council

1584. KUMARI SAYEEDA KHATUN: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what is the new Government's stand in regard to the National Front Government's decision to set up National Security Council; and

(b) whether any progress has been made about the formation of the National Security Council after the announcement of the decision of setting it up; if so, the steps taken in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI LALIT VIJAY SINGH): (a) and (b) The National Security Council was set up on 24th August 1990 and a meeting of the National Security Council has also been held. A National Security Advisory Board, under the Chairmanship of the Prime Minister, has also been constituted and notified to provide a broader cross section of views on the working of the National Security Council. A Strategic Core Group, with Cabinet Secretary as its Chairman, has also been set up to assist the National Security Council. This Group has also met once. The National Security Council will have a separate secretariat to service it. For the present, however, the Joint Intelligence Committee of the Cabinet Secretariat is functioning as the Secretariat for the National Security Council.